

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Direct Service Workforce Roundtable Discussions

Utah families struggle daily with keeping their loved ones with disabilities or special needs at home, as opposed to placing them in expensive out-of-home alternatives. Public and private agencies are continually working to provide resources and opportunities for Utah families and their loved ones so they may remain at home and fully participate in their communities.

Although Utah's unprecedented population growth and robust economy is a benefit to most, it has impacted the ability to provide adequate and quality services to Utahns with disabilities and their families. Many community based service providers are facing severe challenges recruiting and retaining direct service professionals.

Anticipating this crisis, Utah Department of Human Services, Utah Department of Health, Utah Department of Workforce Services and Utah Association of Community Services partnered and applied for a Direct Service Workforce Technical Assistance Grant offered by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Utah was one of five states awarded the grant.

As a result, roundtable discussions are being held in Provo, Ogden and Salt Lake, to explore new and innovative ways to address the shortage of capable direct service professionals. The roundtables are free and participants include Disability and Aging Provider Directors, Executives and Other Leaders from across the state.

Roundtable sessions are scheduled as follows:

April 2nd, 9AM – 4PM, Provo Main Library

April 3rd, 9AM – 4PM, Ogden Union Station

April 4th, 9AM – 4PM, Utah Cultural Celebration Ctr., West Valley

An evening roundtable, designed to address the needs of Utah's self-administering family citizen employers, will be held on April 2nd in Provo. The April 4th roundtable will be recorded and available online, www.dsdp.utah.gov.

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